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cerning them. For theſe reaſons I hope readers of every denomination will favourably receive this deſcription of *Kamtſchatka*, deſigned both for uſe and entertainment. The author, if death had not prevented him, would himſelf have explained the occaſion that gave him an opportunity of being informed of all theſe particulars; and, as ſuch an account may be expected, I ſhall endeavour to do it for him in as few words as poſſible.

In the year 1733, her Imperial Majeſty *Anne* ordered an expedition on foot to examine the coaſt of the Northern or Frozen Ocean, likewiſe that to the Eaſt about *Kamtſchatka*, and from thence to *America* and *Japan*; and alſo at the ſame time to make out a deſcription of *Siberia*, and particularly of *Kamtſchatka*; to obſerve the ſituation of the places, their natural hiſtory and inhabitants, and whatever elſe might be neceſſary to a full knowledge of thoſe people. To this end three profeſſors of the Imperial Academy of Sciences were ſent along with the ſea-officers. Theſe three gentlemen divided the task amonſt them; one undertook to make the aſtronomical and phyſical obſervations; the ſecond to remark whatever regarded natural hiſtory; the third to draw up a deſcription of the people and country. To theſe members of the academy ſeveral other proper aſſiſtants were added: theſe were ſix *Ruſſian* ſtudents, who had an opportunity to improve themſelves while

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122 they were aſſiſting the profeſſors, and in time be qualified to fill up their vacancies. The author,
114 *Stephen Kraſheninicoff*, one of the above-mentioned ſix, was born in *Moſcow*, and had his firſt education in the Latin ſchool of the convent of our Lord, where he learned the principles of rhetoric and philoſophy, and excelled moſt of his ſchool-fellows, both in capacity and application to his ſtudies. Though he was principally employed in the ſtudy of natural philoſophy, yet he ſhewed ſuch inclination to geography and civil hiſtory, that in the Year 1735 he was employed in theſe different enquiries at ſuch places as the
122 profeſſors themſelves did not viſit. In the year 1736 the members of the academy, being at *Yakutski*, were informed, that the ſea-officers had made but a ſmall progreſs in their diſcoveries, and that they would not be able to reach *Kamtſchatka* in ſeveral years; the profeſſors therefore having many uſeful obſervations to make in *Siberia*, thought proper to ſend before them a perſon, on whom they could depend, to prepare for their reception at *Kamtſchatka*. To this truſt Mr. *Kraſheninicoff* was appointed, and at the ſame time was furniſhed with proper inſtructions and directions. Some accidents prevented the profeſſors from arriving at *Kamtſchatka*, excepting the profeſſor of aſtronomy; the others were ordered by the ſenate to return to St. *Petersbourg*, and in their way to make further obſervations in *Siberia*. Thus all enquiries

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quires into the ſtate of *Kamtſchatka* remained to be made entirely by Mr. *Kraſheninicoff*. The profeſſors furniſhed him with ſuch aſſiſtances as they themſelves had, by order of the ſenate. He travelled from one end of *Kamtſchatka* to the other, accompanied by a guard and proper interpreters, being allowed to examine all the writings in the different forts and offices. The profeſſors alſo, in the frequent accounts received from him, found that his obſervations in natural hiſtory and phyſics were juſt; and in any difficulties aſſiſted him with their advice by letters.

In the mean time, the Imperial Academy of Sciences, ſenſible of the importance of purſuing their reſearches into the regions of *Siberia*, thought proper to ſend thither, in the year 1738, one of their adjuncts, *George William Steller*, who met the profeſſors the following year in their return at *Yeneſeisky*. This learned and curious gentleman had a great inclination to go to *Kamtſchatka* by water. His deſire was complied with; and the ſame inſtructions were given to him that were given to Mr. *Kraſheninicoff*. They ſent likewiſe along with him a painter, to delineate whatever might be found curious in natural hiſtory. They continued together at *Kamtſchatka* 'till the year 1740, at which time Mr. *Steller* embarked in the voyage that was made in order to diſcover the coaſt of *America*; and Mr. *Kraſheninicoff* was ſent to *Yakutski*, which as ſoon as the profeſſors were

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122 were informed of, they ordered him to join them, and return with them to *Petersbourg* in the year 1743. Mr. *Steller*, in his return from *Siberia*, died of a fever the 12th of *November*, 1745, in the town of *Toumen*.

128 When Mr. *Kraſheninicoff* had given the Academy of Sciences a full report of all his obſervations at *Kamtſchatka*, and had likewiſe received all Mr. *Steller's* papers, it was thought proper to join theſe two works, and to commit their compilement to the perſon who had the greateſt ſhare in the merit of the diſcovery. This is the origin of the following deſcription of *Kamtſchatka*; a country never yet deſcribed by any author of credit, and where the manners and cuſtoms of the inhabitants are beyond meaſure ſingular and
144 uncommon. It is to be wiſhed that ſuch writers as have hitherto given us accounts of new-diſcovered countries had taken the ſame pains to inform themſelves that this writer hath. The author was advanced in the year 1745 to be an adjunct of the Academy of Sciences, and in the year 1750 was made profeſſor of botany and natural hiſtory. He died in the 42d year of his age, when the laſt ſheets of his book were printing off; and was one of thoſe few whom perſonal merit alone, and no advantages of birth or fortune, contributed to raiſe.

102 For the better underſtanding of the geographical
128 deſcriptions, it was thought proper to add two maps of

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

PREFACE.

122 A FEW words are perhaps necessary by way of introduction to the following pages.

The *Marchesa*, an auxiliary screw schooner yacht of 420 tons, Mr. C. T. Kettlewell captain and owner, was commissioned in the Clyde in November, 1881, and left Cowes on the 8th of January following. She reached Colombo April 24th, having touched at Socotra and Oolegaum Island, one of the Maldive group, on her way from Aden. From Ceylon she proceeded *vid* Singapore to Formosa and the Lin-kin Islands, and thence to Japan. She left Yokohama for Kamschatka July 29th, returning thither from the north on the 6th of October. On the second visit to Japan four months were spent in the country, and the yacht then proceeded for a six weeks' cruise in Chinese waters. Leaving Hongkong at the end of March, 1883, some weeks were devoted to exploring the little-known islands of the Sulu Archipelago, and to visiting the territory of the North Borneo Company. The *Marchesa* then returned to Singapore to take in stores, and proceeded *vid* Sumbawa, Celebes, and various other islands of the Malay Archipelago to New Guinea. In her homeward voyage she again visited the Straits Settlements and Ceylon, and calling at Bombay, finally reached Southampton April 14th, 1884.

000 To such countries as Ceylon and Japan, and others which lie in the beaten path of the tourist round the world, I have not thought it necessary to allude, confining myself entirely to an

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had visited the greater part of the peninsula. Owing to the difficulties of communication excepting in the winter season, he had abundant time on his hands, which he had devoted with indefatigable ardour to his favourite pursuits. Geology, surveying, palæontology, photography and ornithology,—each and all had occupied his leisure hours, with results which were evidenced by the richness of his collections. None of the other Europeans knew anything of the country outside Petropaulovsky, and to him alone we were indebted for what information we could get about our projected route, as well as for many useful hints on Kamschatkan travel.

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Our intention was, if the plan were feasible, to travel northwards from Avatcha Bay until we struck the head waters of the Great Kamschatka River, where we were to procure canoes if possible, or if not to construct rafts, and by this means float down the stream to the sea. Meanwhile, the yacht was to remain in Petropaulovsky harbour for a month or six weeks, and then proceed to the mouth of the river to await our arrival. We found that Dr. Dybowski, in spite of his extensive travels in the peninsula, had not himself performed this journey, neither was he aware of any other person who had attempted it. Communication often takes place with Nischni Kamschatka—an *ostrog* near the mouth of the river—in the winter, but the sledges do not, as in Lapland, travel on the river; and though occasionally a few of the lonely settlements upon its banks are passed, the track leads for the most part by short cuts overland, and we had no means of judging the

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distances or the length of time necessary for our journey. From Dr. Dybowski, however, we were able to obtain all the information that was to be got upon the subject; and to learn that, whatever other difficulties we might have to encounter, that of an insufficient supply of food was certainly not one. His accounts of the really marvellous abundance of fish, which at the time seemed almost incredible, we were destined later to find, if anything, understated. Whether the almost exclusive fish diet of the inhabitants of the

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122 produce dinners under the most trying circumstances which would not have disgraced the table of an alderman. European servants are, in rough travel, by no means always an unmixed good, and it is pleasant therefore to have to record an instance to the contrary. Nor were we much less fortunate in our two guides. Both were old sable-hunters and good backwoodsmen. Jacof Ivanovitch was a solemn, but good-humoured Siberian Russian, who knew the country well; and Afanasi Waren, in whom there was more than a suspicion of English blood, spoke our language very fairly. The latter was a jovial soul with a merry eye, and if report ran true, a great lady-killer. Under the sobriquet of "Half-nasty" he afterwards became an equally great favourite with our crew. Our complement was made up with three half-breed natives, in charge of the packhorses, in whose favour there is but little to say. Of the misdeeds of one of them, whom, from his partiality for the liquor of the country, we afterwards nicknamed Vodki, I shall have more to say in the sequel. Lazy, untruthful, and apt brutally to ill-treat their horses whenever we were not at hand to interfere, they caused the only trouble we had during the first part of our journey. The inhabitants of the river settlements that we were destined to meet with later were, however, as will be seen, far worse; and in comparison with them, our horseboys came afterwards to be regarded in a far more favourable light than they really deserved.

AFANASI WAREN.

492 The pack-saddles used throughout the country are of an excellent pattern, and owing to the hooks with which they are provided, the necessity for the many lashings which are so in-

CHAPTER V.

000 KAMSCHATKA—(*continued*).

We begin our journey—Stampede of the packhorses—The effects of vodki—Stari-ostrog—Salmon *à discrétion*—Large birches—More stampedes—The fur-trade—Prices of skins—On the *tundras*—Narchiki—Enormous abundance of salmon—Mortality among the fish—A Kamschatkan interior—*Ovis nivicole*—Hot springs—Uses of the birch-tree—Kamschatkan ponies—Gunal—Balagans—Sledge-dogs—An Indian summer.

122 EARLY on the morning of August 19th we rowed ashore with a somewhat formidable amount of baggage, and found the horses awaiting us. Of these there were sixteen; and four little foals, engaged in capering round their mothers, were, we learnt, also to join the expedition. This number, owing to our numerous *personnel*, was hardly sufficient, but as we had requisitioned almost all the available cattle in the neighbourhood of Petropaulovsky, we decided to make a start with them, trusting to be able to pick up others at the little village of Avatcha, about twelve versts distant.[1] Our party were ten in number, our three selves with two servants forming the yacht contingent. These latter were old campaigners. Louis, who had served in the Franco-Prussian War, and had been in the army before Paris in the terrible winter of 1870-71, had done much travelling in his master's service and elsewhere, and was without exception the very best servant I ever saw. Spiridione Zembi, a Maltese Greek, our cook, deserves no less praise. Master alike of his profession and of many languages, he contrived to

[1] A verst is two-thirds of an English mile.